



# Queensland Branch News



19<sup>th</sup> May 2011

## UNION DUES

Many calls have been received at the Branch Office in relation to Union dues. A processing error occurred from National Office associated with the conversion from the individual Branches of Southern Queensland/Northern Queensland into the consolidated Queensland Branch as at 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

Members were advised via SMS on 18<sup>th</sup> March regarding an error associated with Direct Debits on 03/03 and 10/03/2011 in that they were not taken from accounts. This culminated in double deductions subsequently being taken at the next relevant debit period (17/3 and 24/3 respectively) in accordance with members preferred payment period.

Due to the system not being adjusted after the pre-required double deductions, this procedure was unfortunately processed again until manually rectified by Queensland Branch staff.

The Branch apologises for any inconvenience that may have occurred as a result of the deductions enacted by a National Office processing error.

Any member who wishes to request a refund as a result of the above should not hesitate to contact the Branch. Some members have advised that they were hit with dishonour fees from the Credit Union. If this has occurred please contact the Branch and details will be forwarded to the Credit Union for rectification.

If members did not receive an SMS they are reminded to update/provide their contact details (mobile phone number) to the Branch. Once again, apologies are relayed to the membership.

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## INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

### **PATRICK GENERAL**

Local discussions have been progressing with Patrick in a number of Ports with Queensland discussions to proceed on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> in Gladstone and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May in Brisbane.

This will be followed by meetings at the Branch level involving Committee members from General and Terminal engaging in discussions regarding transfer of labour from the respective areas on Wed. 25<sup>th</sup> May.

National General Part A negotiations will resume on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Members will be appraised of outcomes of those meetings on conclusion.

### **PATRICK TERMINAL**

Local negotiations have taken place at all Patrick Terminals. A report back meeting was held with members at the Terminal on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Local negotiations also mentioned discussions in relation to the Deed that has a nominal expiry date of 29<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

That Deed has now exhausted and the Terminal members will now return to rostering and salary arrangements as per the 2008 Agreement and PGE employees will have the guarantee returned to the level of the 2008 Agreement until such time those arrangements are superseded by a replacement Agreement.

### **CARGOLINK**

National negotiations for a replacement Cargolink Agreement will resume on 7<sup>th</sup> June in Melbourne after the membership nationally rejected the Agreement.

### **POAGS**

Members are reminded to lodge local claims at the Branch or to email - poageba@hotmail.com. At the time of writing, we are awaiting further meeting dates from the Company.

### **TSHD BRISBANE**

After meeting with the Company for over 12 months in an attempt to replace the EBA which expired on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010, the crew of the Dredge finally took out a protected action ballot and initiated their first protected action on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May for 24 hours.

The Company, after one more meeting, decided to take an EBA, not agreed to by the Union, to the vote which is currently underway. Their major claims remain a fair remuneration rate for a privately owned dredge, training of IR and the Liaison Officer position when in outports. Unfortunately the Company's attitude towards the crew has changed very little and further protected action cannot be ruled out.

#### **DP WORLD**

DP World's initial Log of Claim meetings for replacing their Enterprise Agreement which expires on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 have been held. Our Committee presented detailed claims to the Company both nationally and locally, but DP World responded with an Interests and Issues paper at national discussions and a revised paper in Brisbane, before declaring that they had "no local claims". National discussions commence on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May continuing to Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **TOLL**

Further discussions re progressing Agreement for Company operation in Gladstone.

#### **PACIFIC MARINE**

Further meeting with Company scheduled for Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May re: Gladstone operation.

#### **P.B.SEATOW**

Membership voted for endorsement of the Agreement re: their Gladstone operation.

#### **VAN OORD**

Inspection of *Cornelius Lely* has taken place over last weekend with the vessel currently mobilising for Hay Point and Gladstone.

Further Agreement negotiations will take place in Brisbane next week at the Branch to seek response to the Union's claims for the Van Oord Agreement.

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## **SOCIAL COMPACT**

The Annual General Meeting was given a full report on the Union's activities, including a report on indigenous workers from both Assistant National Secretary Ian Bray and ACTU indigenous representative NSS Delegate, Patrick Neliman.

Contained within the report was the signing of Social Compacts with Kimberley Land Council. Since that Council a Compact was signed with the North Queensland Council and 3 Queensland Unions being the ETU, CFMEU (Mining and Energy) and the MUA.

The Compact contains policy whereby Unions will seek to ensure traditional landowners are included within major projects, including a process whereby real jobs and training opportunities are developed. The Land Council, in any of their negotiations with developments will ensure that Collective Agreements with appropriate Unions will be applicable.

It is heartening to see that as a result of reports to the QCU and in particular with QCU Indigenous Officer Gwen Taylor, that there now will be further signatories to the Social Compact, a total of 17 Unions as well as the QCU, in all being active participants. There will be a signing ceremony on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Assistant National Secretary Ian Bray has been invited to speak on behalf of the MUA and other Unions. This goes a long way to ensure the rights of traditional owners are expanded through the wider network of affiliated Unions.

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